

NEWS

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Businesses can pay state taxes with VISA cards

Department of Revenue adds third credit card payment option for electronic filers

OLYMPIA, Wash., July 17, 2006 — VISA credit cards have been added to the list of electronic payment options available for business taxpayers, the Washington State Department of Revenue announced today.

Users must file their returns online using the Department's E-file system, or be participants in the Bill Pay program, to take advantage of credit card payment choices. American Express and Discover are also available, and MasterCard will be added later this year. Businesses may also pay by electronic funds transfer and e-check.

"Many taxpayers have been asking for the VISA payment option," said Department Director Cindi Holmstrom. "Electronic payments are a secure, convenient option for businesses, and they help make the Department more efficient."

Over 142,000 businesses use the Department's E-file system, and 80 percent of those use electronic payments to settle their tax bill. E-filers represent nearly one-third of the active business taxpayers in the state of Washington, and they pay two-thirds of taxes, nearly \$700 million a month.

In addition to adding the new VISA payment option, the convenience fee for processing credit card payments is now a flat rate of 2.5 percent for all taxpayers. This replaces a scale that applied different rates to different cards and resulted in an average three percent fee for smaller businesses. The fee is charged by a third party provider the Department uses to process electronic payments.

More information is available at <http://dor.wa.gov>. Information and assistance are also available by calling toll-free 1-877-345-3353.

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